Appl. No. 09/463,049 Atty. Docket No. 7253L Amdt. dated 5/12/2005 Reply to Office Action of November 12, 2004 Customer No. 27752

REMARKS

Claims 18-23 are pending in the application for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claim 18 has been amended to further clarify the invention.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 18-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,746,776 to Smith et al. ("Smith"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim language in claim 18 is a patentably distinct limitation. It is the belief by Applicants that one of ordinary skill in the art would readily know how much surface area would be necessary to provide maintain the amount of cleaning composition suggested in the claim. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 18 to include a substrate comprising a surface area of at least about 360 cm². Applicants respectfully submit that the weight as disclosed in claim 18 is a patentably distinct limitation and as such is not disclosed by Smith.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that it is unobvious to one or ordinary skill to readily know the amounts that are necessary for proper cleaning under the methods of the present invention. While it may be easy to say that one should not use too little or too much, there is absolutely no disclosure as to what too much or too little is. Indeed, depending on the active ingredients, how they are applied, the type of cleaning performed, what is too much or too little could vary wildly – likely by orders of magnitude. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not know to utilize from about 2 grams to about 20 grams of a fabric shrinkage reducing composition comprising a fabric shrinkage reducing agent selected from the group consisting of: ethylene glycol, all isomers of propanediol, butanediol, pentanediol, hexanediol and mixtures thereof releasable absorbed in the substrate.

As Smith does not disclose or suggest each and every limitation of the invention, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

With regard to all claims not specifically mentioned, these are believed to be allowable not only in view of their dependency on their respective base claims and any intervening claims, but also for the totality of features recited therein.

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All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner disagree, Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants to arrange for a telephonic interview in an effort to expedite the prosecution of this matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested. No fee is believed to be due for the amendments herein. Should any fee be required, please charge such fee to Procter & Gamble Deposit Account No. 16-2480.

Respectfully submitted,

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPAN

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